tion of Rural Health Facilities, for providing referral services for high risk pregnancies, essential and emergency obstetric and new born care; Primary Health Centres are also being strengthened to promote institutional births; Traditional Birth Attendants are being trained to make home delivery clean and safe.

Measures for improving maternal health also include:

(i) Expansion and improvement in services for safe Medical Termination of Pregnancy; a programme for detection and treatment of Reproductive Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Diseases; round the clock delivery services in at least selected Rural Hospitals; referral transportation for high risk pregnancies for poor families through the Gram Panchayats, etc.;

To supplement Government's efforts, NGO's are being involved in a significant way, to improve outreach services and to enssure community participation in Maternal Health Programmes. Drugs for Pregnant Women and Mothers are also being supplied through the Primary Health Centres and the Sub-Centres.

New Vaccine for Hepatitis-B

1866. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Technology Development Board has developed a new vaccine for Hepatitis-B;

(b) if, so whether new vaccine will be prices at Rs. 140/- as compared to imported vaccine priced at Rs. 280/-;

(c) whether Government will include this vaccine in the child welfare programmes in line with Pulse Polio and other such vaccines; and

(d) if 100% free vaccine is not possible, whether the cost will be subsidised for Hepatitis-B Vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir. Technology Development Board has supported the Development and Commercialisation of Hepatitis-B Vaccing manufactured by M/s. Shantha Biotechnic Pvt. Ltd, which is developed in its in-house R&D Unit.

(b) As per information received from Department of Science & Technology, the sale price of the new vaccine is Rs. 212/- (inclusive of all taxes) for one single adult dose.

(c) and (d) The estimated cost of including Hepatitis-B vaccine in the Immunization Programme will be around Rs. 525 crores per annum, and for the IX Plan period it will be around Rs. 2625 crores. Additional resources of this size are not available within the Department of Family Welfare. Planning Commission has indicated that funds required be made up by internal Resource Mobilization as additional allocation would not be possible.

Communication Network through Electronic Means

1867. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an application for establishment of a communication network through electronic means for rapid exchange of information submitted by the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for establishment of such a network together with the reasons for delaying it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir. However, it has been reported by Regional Institute